

Montana Association of Conservation Districts Scholarship Application

\$500 Scholarships to Montana students. MACD High School Scholarship is open to all Montana high school seniors. MACD Post-Secondary Scholarship is open to all Montana students who have completed at least two semesters at an accredited post secondary institution. Eligibility requirements for both scholarships include: US citizenship, Montana residency, minimum grade point average of 2.5, and enrollment or plans to enroll in a course of study that allows students to explore natural resource issues. Appropriate courses of study include agriculture, agribusiness, animal science, range science, forestry, environmental sciences, land resources sciences, plant science, etc. Students may receive each scholarship only once. Application deadline is February 15, 2009. Contact the Extension Office if interested.

Leader Training!

All leaders, volunteers, ambassadors and junior leaders are invited to attend a Leader Training sponsored by District 5 4-H. The training will be Feb 28th from 10AM – 4PM. Two workshops will be offered. One will be the Leaders College – Level 1 led by State 4-H Director, Jill Martz and the other will be Challenge Course/ Teambuilding Games Facilitator Training. Either will be a great skill-building workshop for both youth and adults alike, ESPECIALLY camp counselors! A small registration fee of \$5 will cover handouts and lunch. The training will be held at the Small Business Development Center in Butte. Contact the Gallatin County extension office to pre-register by February 18. If a large enough group plans to go we can coordinate travel.

December 2008 EIN and Tax Filing Clarification from National 4-H Headquarters

All Montana 4-H Clubs with EIN numbers must file a report by February 15 of 2009 for the 2008 tax year. The Montana 4-H year is October 1 – September 30 hence the filing date of February 15. You can do this by going to the following web site: <http://epostcard.form990.org> **From that site, if you go to Technical Support and then Quick Start, it will take you to simple-to-follow instructions. This information may be different from what you previously thought. This clarification from National 4-H Headquarters helps to explain some of the confusion:** 990-N / E-Postcard filing was supposed to begin in 2008 for any small tax exempt organization that had been around by then that had operated for at least a year (completed a tax year) due an act of Congress in 2006. It didn't happen for 4-H in January 2008, initially, because the IRS didn't have the new electronic-only 990-N functional in early January as expected. Other events occurred, and by summer we indicated the 25,000 & under subsidiaries would not be penalized for not filing a 990-N during 2008. Some did anyway, but all need to file in 2009, whether you submitted their records in time for us to get records to the IRS in March 2008 or if you did not get all your records to us by that time. **The 990-N is not going to work for those organizations whose records the IRS has not updated nor has not yet received – nevertheless, it's been determined they need to try – understanding those rejection notices need to be kept and that this will get worked out later. If this happens – Do not call the number listed in the support section of the E-Postcard website. Please keep a copy for your records and send a copy to the 4-H Office at 201 West Madison, Suite 330, Belgrade, MT 59714.** The only exception would be clubs/groups that formed in 2008 and have yet to complete a full tax year. They wouldn't file in February if they've only existed a couple of months. This notice was received from National 4-H Headquarters on December 12, 2008. It takes the place of any previous information about not filing an E-Postcard.

Photography

I will have a photography open house at my house Saturday, February 14 anytime between 1-4pm. Kids, come and bring any photographs you've taken this 4-H year and we will look at them together. In the mean time please take at least 15 pictures of "shapes, lines, and textures". Look for interesting shapes, include lines and textures. Look past what the object is, (your subject, most likely, will not be recognizable), and try to make a photograph that is interesting to look at. Try getting close up to the subject (stay in focus), that will give more detail showing more of the shapes, lines and texture!! Call me and let me know approximately when you'll be coming to the open house and I will give you directions. Kathy 581-8763 My home address is 1013 Sunrise Dr.